

cultural resources of Indian tribes associated with the Xam Kwatchan Trail network.

Establishes a California-Nevada Desert Tortoise Relocation Center with the aid of private partners and directs the Secretary of the Interior to study wildlife corridors and species migration in the California desert.

Sec. 3. Visitor Center.

Authorizes the National Park Service to acquire up to five acres of land for a Joshua Tree National Park Visitor Center.

Sec. 4. California State School Land.

Allows BLM revenue from surplus land exchange and disposal to fund the purchase of California State school trust land.

Sec. 5. Designation of Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Designates 77 miles of new wild, scenic, and recreational rivers under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.). The designations affect the Amargosa River, Surprise Canyon Creek, Deep Creek, and the Whitewater River.

Sec. 6. Conforming Amendments.

Makes conforming amendments and prevents the creation of buffer zones around new wilderness areas.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, let me just say very quickly here that what Representative COOK has done is taking an important issue and doing it the right way, by collaboration and outreach with local people who live in those areas on what they want to do with the public land.

Public land does not necessarily only mean Federal land. Public land can also be State, it can be county, and it can be all sorts of entities' land, but the value of that land, whether it is Federal or State or county or municipality, is does it help the people of that particular area.

What Mr. COOK has done in this particular piece of legislation is talk to them and find a way in which the land can actually be used to help people. So, yes, he released some wilderness study areas that were designated as unsuitable for a wilderness designation but then created three times that number of acreage in new wilderness designations as well as new wild and scenic river designations.

Most importantly, because land is needed for recreational purposes, he puts protections for people who are using this land—OHV users, especially—that ensure these areas will not be closed administratively and that that kind of recreation opportunity will not be taken away on a whim.

So what he has done is worked very hard with local people to find local people's needs and desires for their local land and provided them an opportunity that will provide not only economic benefits for a few, but also recreational benefits for many, as well as creating new wilderness designations at the same time and wild and scenic designations at the same time.

This is a win-win for everyone involved. I commend him for his hard work in actually coming up with this particular process. This is the way land designation should be used.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to adopt this bill. I have no more speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 857, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LAKE BISTINEAU LAND TITLE STABILITY ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3392) to provide for stability of title to certain land in the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3392

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Lake Bistineau Land Title Stability Act".

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue a recordable disclaimer of interest of the United States in and to—

- (1) any land described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of section 4 that is located outside the record meander lines of the Original Survey described in that subsection; and
- (2) any omitted land.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **OMITTED LAND.**—The term "omitted land" means any land in S30–T16N–R10W, including adjacent islands and the meander lines of the water body, that was in place during the Original Survey, but that was not included in the Original Survey, regardless of whether the exclusion of the land was due to gross error in the Original Survey or fraud by any individual conducting the Original Survey.

(2) **ORIGINAL SURVEY.**—The term "Original Survey" means the survey of land in northern Louisiana approved by the Surveyor General on December 8, 1842.

(3) **RESURVEY.**—The term "Resurvey" means the document entitled "Dependent Re-Survey, Extension Survey and Survey of Two Islands, Sections 17, 29, and 30", which was completed on November 24, 1967, approved on January 15, 1969, and published in the Federal Register on February 27, 1969 (34 Fed. Reg. 2677).

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 4. MEANDER LINES; RECORDABLE DISCLAIMER OF INTEREST.

(a) **MEANDER LINES.**—The meander lines in the Original Survey are definitive for purposes of determining title to—

- (1) the land in S30–T16N–R10W; and
- (2) the 2 islands adjacent to the land described in paragraph (1).

(b) **RECORDABLE DISCLAIMER OF INTEREST.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall prepare a recordable disclaimer of interest in which the United States conveys and disclaims any right, title, or interest of the United States in and to—

- (A) any land described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) that is located outside the

recorded meander lines described in that subsection; and

(B) any omitted land.

(2) **FILING.**—The Secretary shall record the disclaimer of interest prepared under paragraph (1) in the appropriate local office in the State of Louisiana in which real property documents are recorded.

(3) **INCLUSIONS.**—The disclaimer of interest filed under paragraph (2) shall include legal descriptions of the land subject to the disclaimer of interest using the lot or tract numbers included in the Resurvey.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON), who is the sponsor of this piece of legislation.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I do want to take a moment to thank Chairman BISHOP and his team for their continued support of the Lake Bistineau Land Title Stability Act. This bill rights a decades-old wrong when the Federal Government failed to notify landowners of a resurvey of over 200 acres around Lake Bistineau, located in northwest Louisiana. When the Federal Government did that, it preempted the rights of landowners who had legal ownership of the land.

It is unfathomable for many of us here today to imagine a morning where we wake up and we are told that the land our families owned for generations is no longer ours, to learn that the Federal Government has somehow staked claim to our very homes, the place where we were raised, the place where we are now raising our own families, and the land we had worked for decades, all of it just gone without so much as an opportunity to contest it.

That is what happened here. The government's failure to properly notify landowners of the new boundaries and its claim to the land for nearly 50 years is shameful. This error led to unnecessary uncertainty regarding who rightfully owns the land. We genuinely believe the answer is very clear: the property rightfully belongs to the Louisianans who have owned the lands since the days the State of Louisiana first entered the Union.

My bill provides certainty and clarity by directing the Secretary of the Interior to issue a disclaimer of interest on the disputed acres and rightfully restore land title ownership to the families that have lived and worked these

lands since the State's admittance to the Union.

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will support this bill and support the folks in my district who have simply had their land taken from them without due process.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3392 requires the Bureau of Land Management to disclaim interest in 230 acres of land in northern Louisiana. The land at issue was originally surveyed in 1842, transferred to the Bossier Levee District in 1892, and conveyed to private owners in 1904.

However, BLM conducted a resurvey in 1967 after realizing that certain lands were omitted from previous Federal surveys. The resurvey puts more than 200 acres of land previously thought to belong to Louisiana and private interests back into Federal ownership.

Until recently, the results of this resurvey were largely ignored or forgotten, and now there are several homeowners with clouded titles and some confusion regarding the ownership of mineral rights in the area.

BLM is currently working to evaluate ownership and authorized conveyance where appropriate under the Color-of-Title Act. The Color-of-Title Act authorizes the BLM to convey public lands that have been acquired by peaceful adverse possession often caused by historical surveying anomalies, such as in this case. However, the Color-of-Title Act does not authorize the transfer of mineral rights owned by the United States, which is why this bill is necessary.

To be clear, under most circumstances, we would not support legislation to transfer Federal mineral rights without fair compensation to the American taxpayer, but this is a very unusual and special case. Over 40 years have passed since the BLM attempted to enforce Federal ownership of this land. This lack of clarity and communication is unacceptable. For that reason, I support this bill and I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This particular bill is not the first time we have talked about this on the floor. It is long overdue. In fact, it is about 100 years long overdue, with only a handful of homeowners having their title for which they have bought, sold, and lived for decades questioning whether they actually have the title to it or not.

It is unfair, and it was wrong. It was wrong for BLM, and it is right for Congress to step in and try and solve this problem to bring some finality and certainty to an issue that never should

have been an issue in the very first place. This harms the status quo and harms people.

That is not our position, and that is not what we should be doing. So I appreciate the minority working with us on this particular bill very well because it is an extremely important one to try and finally solve this particular issue so we don't come back again.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Again, Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. JOHNSON for this particular bill that is solving a problem that should never have been there in his particular district, for his efforts on it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to adopt this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3392, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1791) to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area in the State of Washington, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1791

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Act".

SEC. 2. PURPOSES; CONSTRUCTION.

The purposes of this Act include—

- (1) to recognize the national importance of the natural and cultural legacies of the area, as demonstrated in the study entitled "Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area Feasibility Study" dated April 2012 and its addendum dated May 2014;
- (2) to recognize the heritage of natural resource conservation in the Pacific Northwest and in the Mountains to Sound Greenway;
- (3) to preserve, support, conserve, and interpret the legacies of natural resource conservation, community stewardship, and Indian tribes and nations from time immemorial, and reserved rights of Indian Tribes within the Mountains to Sound National Heritage Area;
- (4) to promote heritage, cultural, and recreational tourism and to develop educational and cultural programs for visitors and the general public;
- (5) to recognize and interpret important events and geographic locations representing key developments in the creation of America, particularly the settlement of the American West and the stories of diverse ethnic groups, Indian tribes, and others;

(6) to enhance a cooperative management framework to assist Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments, the private sector, and citizens residing in the Heritage Area in conserving, supporting, managing, and enhancing natural and recreational sites in the Heritage Area;

(7) to recognize and interpret the relationship between land and people, representing broad American ideals demonstrated through the integrity of existing resources within the Heritage Area; and

(8) to support working relationships between public land managers and the community by creating relevant links between the National Park Service, the Forest Service, other relevant Federal agencies, Tribal governments, State and local governments and agencies, and community stakeholders within and surrounding the Heritage Area in order to protect, enhance, and interpret cultural and natural resources within the Heritage Area.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **HERITAGE AREA.**—The term "Heritage Area" means the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area established in this Act.

(2) **LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.**—The term "local coordinating entity" means the entity selected by the Secretary under section 4(d).

(3) **MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—The term "management plan" means the management plan for the Heritage Area required under section 5.

(4) **MAP.**—The term "Map" means the map entitled "Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area Proposed Boundary", numbered 584/125,484, and dated August 2014.

(5) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) **STATE.**—The term "State" means the State of Washington.

(7) **TRIBE OR TRIBAL.**—The terms "Tribe" or "Tribal" mean any federally recognized Indian tribe with cultural heritage and historic interests within the proposed Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area, including the Snoqualmie, Yakama, Tulalip, Muckleshoot and Colville Indian tribes.

SEC. 4. DESIGNATION OF THE MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the State the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area.

(b) **BOUNDARIES.**—The Heritage Area shall consist of land located in King and Kittitas Counties in the State, as generally depicted on the map.

(c) **MAP.**—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service, the United States Forest Service, and the local coordinating entity.

(d) **LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.**—The Secretary shall designate a willing local unit of government, a consortium of affected counties, Indian tribe, or a nonprofit organization to serve as the coordinating entity for the Heritage Area within 120 days of the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the local coordinating entity shall submit to the Secretary for approval a proposed management plan for the Heritage Area.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The management plan shall—

- (1) incorporate an integrated and cooperative approach for the protection, enhancement, and interpretation of the natural, cultural, historic, scenic, Tribal, and recreational resources of the Heritage Area;